

GSRP/HEAD START BLEND: MEETING THE STANDARDS

An ISD or its subrecipients may partner with Head Start to create a GSRP/Head Start Blend within one classroom. This is accomplished by mixing funds for one part-day GSRP slot and one part-day Head Start slot to create funding for one child, resulting in school day, comprehensive preschool. **All Head Start and GSRP policies and regulations must be applied to the blended slot, with the more stringent standard from either program adhered to.** In a few examples below the higher standard is shaded and therefore the one to be met for all children funded with GSRP/Head Start Blend slots. For more information, refer to the Classroom Requirements section of the GSRP Implementation Manual.

GSRP	Head Start
<p>Length of Program Year: GSRP classrooms in place for more than one academic year must have a minimum of 30 weeks of classroom sessions. Relocated GSRP classrooms must minimally have 30 weeks of programming. Newly licensed classrooms must operate for a minimum of 20 weeks of classroom sessions.</p>	<p>Length of Program Year: The annual number of required days of planned class operations (days when children are scheduled to attend) is determined by the number of days per week each program operates. Programs that operate for four days per week must provide at least 128 days per year of planned class operations. Programs that operate for five days per week must provide at least 160 days per year of planned class operations.</p>
<p>Classroom Staff Qualifications: A Lead Teacher will be considered credentialed for the position with any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valid Michigan teaching certificate and an Early Childhood Education (ZA) or Early Childhood-General and Special Education (ZS) endorsement, • A bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development with a specialization in preschool teaching. The transcript will document a major, rather than a minor, in child development or early childhood education, • A valid Michigan teaching certificate with a CDA if hired before June 24, 2014, or • A valid Michigan teaching certificate with PPI/Early Childhood Special Education Approval. <p>Result: A teacher meeting GSRP qualifications must be employed as the lead teacher for a classroom with GSRP/HS Blend slots.</p>	<p>Classroom Staff Qualifications: By September 30, 2013 at least 50% of Head Start teachers nation-wide must have a baccalaureate or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education or a baccalaureate or advanced degree in any subject, and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education with experience teaching preschool-age children. As of October 1, 2011, each Head Start classroom in center-based programs must have a teacher who has at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood education; • An associate degree in a field related to early childhood education and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-age children; • A baccalaureate or advanced degree in any field and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood education, with experience teaching preschool-age children or; • A baccalaureate degree in any field and has been admitted into the Teach For America program, passed a rigorous early childhood content exam, such as the Praxis II, participated in a Teach For America summer training institute that includes teaching preschool children and is receiving ongoing professional development and support from Teach For America's professional staff.
<p>Screening: GSRP Grantees are required to ensure that all enrolled children participate in developmental screenings within two weeks of enrollment as described in the <i>Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten</i>.</p>	<p>Screening: Grantees must provide for developmental, hearing and vision screenings of all children enrolled into Head Start within 45 days of the child's entry into the program.</p> <p>Result: The Head Start requirement is inclusive of and goes beyond the GSRP requirement. Therefore it is the Head Start requirement that must be applied to all children funded by GSRP/HS Blend slots.</p>
<p>Home Visits, Parent/Teacher Conferences: A minimum of four parent contacts, typically two home visits and two parent/teacher conferences.</p> <p>Result: The parent contact requirements match. Therefore a minimum of two home visits and two parent/teacher conferences are required for all children funded with GSRP/HS Blend slots.</p>	<p>Home Visits, Parent/Teacher Conferences: A minimum of two home visits and two parent/teacher conferences.</p>

- All children funded by the GSRP/Head Start Blend must qualify for and be concurrently enrolled in both programs.
- Children in the class may be funded from a variety of sources, but **all** must attend for the full day.
- The teaching team, which includes one lead teacher and an associate teacher, must remain the same for the entire day, every day the class is scheduled. If 17 or 18 children are enrolled, a third consistent adult must be present for the entire day also.
- Administrators ensure that staff has time for planning, professional development and parent involvement activities.
- Additional staff members must be available to allow staffs time for required breaks. At no time may the adult/child ratio exceed 1:8.